

## City of Lakeland

# HISTORY

In 1959 Lakeland was an amusement park consisting of the 387 acre Garner Lake, a few animal statues, and the Ol' "Huff N Puff" train.

In the sixties, a popular Mid-South drag strip drew crowds to Lakeland.

The incorporation of Lakeland was conceived and financed by Louis Garner. Petitions were circulated by Beverle Rivera and Henry Veasy. Legal preparations were done by Edward Johnson and Lt. Governor John Wilder.

On June 12, 1977 Lakeland incorporated its 260 homes, 7.5 miles of roads and 612 citizens into the City of Lakeland, Tennessee.

Belz Mall was built in 1979 and in 1981 the first City Hall was built.

The first elected officials were Beverle Rivera, William H. Howich and Earl Webber. Beverle Rivera was the first Mayor of Lakeland. The first City meeting was held in September of 1977 at the old Lakeland Café. A bedroom of the Rivera home served as City Hall. No salaries were paid until 1982.

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## FAST FACTS ABOUT LAKELAND

- Current population is approximately 10,848
- Lakeland has 24 square miles or 15,360 acres
- City flower is the Crepe Myrtle
- The city logo was designed by Becky Scobey of Bartlett in 1977. The original oil painting hangs in City Hall.